



For Immediate Release  
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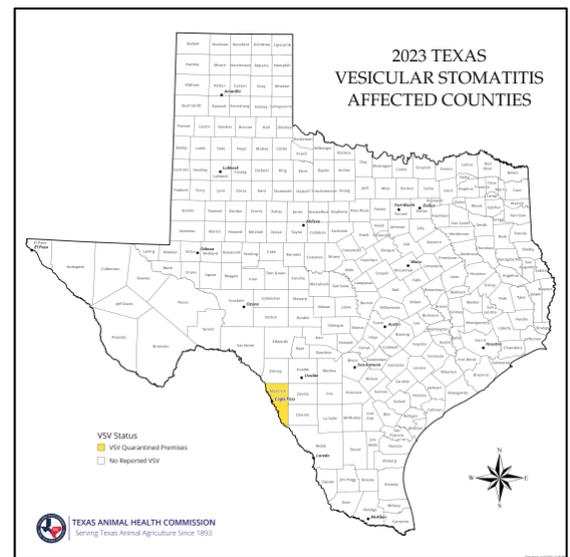
# Vesicular Stomatitis Virus Detected in Maverick County Horse

## First Case of VSV in Texas This Year

AUSTIN, TX – The Texas Animal Health Commission received confirmation of vesicular stomatitis virus (VSV) in a horse on a Maverick County premises, on June 15, 2023. The National Veterinary Services Laboratory (NVSL) in Ames, Iowa confirmed the virus as the New Jersey serotype. This confirmation marks the first case of VSV in Texas this year.

The 15-year-old Quarter Horse was tested following the observation of visible clinical signs of VSV, including oral lesions. The horse is being monitored and the premises will remain under quarantine until 14 days from the onset of lesions in the last affected animal on the premises. No other animals on the premises are showing clinical signs at this time, and there are no known recent movements on or off of the premises. Epidemiological investigations are underway.

On May 17, 2023, NVSL confirmed VSV on an equine premises in San Diego County, California, marking the first case of VSV in the United States this year. Since the start of this outbreak, 95 VSV-affected premises have been identified in California. Additionally, cases of VSV have been reported in the northern Mexican states of Chihuahua and Sonora from December 2022 to present.



“VSV can be transmitted through direct contact with infected animals; contact with virus contaminated objects, such as shared tack; or by blood-feeding insects,” said Dr. Andy Schwartz, TAHC Executive Director and State Veterinarian. “Initial epidemiological investigations for the Maverick County case indicate the infection was likely due to favorable weather conditions leading to an increase in the population of VSV-infected vectors. Biosecurity and vector mitigation measures are a priority for preventing further disease spread.”

Vesicular stomatitis is a viral disease that primarily affects horses and cattle and occasionally swine, sheep, goats, llamas, and alpacas. VSV can cause blisters and sores in the mouth and on the tongue, muzzle, teats or hooves of susceptible animals. Additional signs of infection include fever, drooling or frothing at the mouth, reluctance to eat, lameness or laminitis if lesions develop around the coronary band. Lesions usually heal in two or three weeks, and most animals recover with supportive care by a veterinarian.



## Prevention

Even with the best defense measures, VSV could infect a herd. Keep the following prevention tools in mind to help protect your livestock:

- Control biting flies (fly spray, fly traps, maintaining clean pens, etc.).
- Keep equine animals stalled or under a roof to reduce exposure to flies.
- Feed and water stock from their individual buckets.
- Don't visit a ranch that's under quarantine for VSV. Wait until the animals have healed.
- Restrict nose-to-nose contact between horses from other premises.
- Clean and disinfect tack and equipment between uses.

## If You Suspect Infection

1. Call your private veterinarian immediately.
2. Separate affected horse(s) from all healthy horses on the property.
3. Handle all healthy animals before sick animals. After handling sick animals make sure to wash and disinfect your hands and boots, if possible, change and wash your clothes.

Some states and other countries may restrict movement of, or impose additional requirements for, equine or other susceptible animals from states having known cases of VSV. Before moving livestock, contact the state of destination for their requirements. For international export information, visit the [USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service website](#).

The TAHC will send out updates upon new confirmations of VSV in Texas. To receive email updates, sign up for the [TAHC Insider equine email list](#). All cases will be reported to the [Equine Disease Communication Center](#). For VSV history and past TAHC updates visit the [TAHC Equine Health webpage](#). Nationwide situational VSV updates are available through the [USDA Vesicular Stomatitis webpage](#).

## Veterinary Guidance

If you suspect a client's animal is infected with VSV, contact your [TAHC Region Office](#) for procedures, required paperwork and important sample submission information.

For more information about VSV and preventative measures, visit the links below:

- TAHC Fact Sheet:  
[https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCFactsheet\\_VesicularStomatitis.pdf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCFactsheet_VesicularStomatitis.pdf)
- Equine Biosecurity Guidance:  
[https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure\\_BiosecurityEquine.pdf](https://www.tahc.texas.gov/news/brochures/TAHCBrochure_BiosecurityEquine.pdf)
- USDA VSV Webpage: <https://www.aphis.usda.gov/aphis/ourfocus/animalhealth/animal-disease-information/equine/vsv/vesicular-stomatitis>

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*The Texas Animal Health Commission (TAHC) was established in 1893 as the Livestock Sanitary Commission and charged with protecting the state's domestic animals "from all contagious or infectious diseases of a malignant character." TAHC remains true to this charge while evolving with the times to protect the health and marketability of all Texas livestock and poultry. Learn more about the TAHC by visiting [www.tahc.texas.gov](http://www.tahc.texas.gov).*